

Sub
B1 } 1.

(Amended) A telecommunications switch comprising:

a plurality of optical inputs;

a plurality of optical outputs;

an optical switch that operates with a schedule not directly determined by the input stream, the schedule of the optical switch being changed to have unbalanced periods in response to imbalance in traffic; and

a plurality of reordering units that rearrange the order of data units within data streams to correspond to the schedule of the switch.

A2 11.

(Amended) A telecommunications switch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the switch schedule is determined by the average load between inputs and outputs.

Sub
B2 } 13.

(Amended) The method of switching data streams comprising:

operating an optical switch with a schedule not directly determined by the input stream, the schedule of the optical switch being changed to have unbalanced periods in response to imbalance in traffic; and

rearranging the order of data units within data streams to correspond to the schedule of the switch.

A4 23.

(Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the switch schedule is determined by the average load between inputs and outputs.